Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

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STATE LIBRARY BUDGET

Montana's budget deficit has had an effect on the programs and services of the Montana State Library. As a result of decisions made during June's special legislative session, several changes were made. A 5% reduction in General Fund monies has resulted in the loss of one professional reference librarian. The State Library will also be forced to operate with a single Western Library Network (WLN) terminal to be shared by members of the Reference and Technical Services departments. Another budget reduction affects the public library film collection that is now run by contract and housed at the Butte-Silver Bow Library. That contract has been reduced to $4,644 from $11,572 for fiscal year 1986. Finally, the Library will have no equipment budget during the 1987 fiscal year and the State Library Commission will reduce its number of meetings from six to five with the December and February meetings combined as one meeting in January.

Library finances face an uncertain future as LSCA funding levels await a final determinatin of the effect of Graham-Rudman cuts and the State of Montana faces the prospect of another budget shortfall in the 1987 Legislative session. Support for libraries was strong during the June special session indicating the widespread interest of Montanans in good library service.

Montana law librarians are hosting the 1986 annual conference of the Western Pacific Chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians to be held in Helena on September 17th - 20th. The conference theme is "Code of the West". A workshop specifically designed for librarians: "Essential skills for Middle Managers" will be presented on Friday morning, September 19th. For more information on the conference or the workshop contact Sandra Jarvie at the Montana State Law Library in Helena, 444-3660.

The Havre-Hill County Library celebrated its grand opening June 8th. Pictured below is the library, housed in the remodeled Havre Clinic building.

ILL FEES IN MONTANA

The Executive Board of the Montana Library Association has urged the Montana State Library Commission and the Board of Regents to find a source of funding that will prevent the six units of the Montana University System from charging fees for interlibrary loan. Budget cuts plus the costs university libraries incur in providing photocopies and books have forced those libraries to evaluate the current structure of ILL in Montana.

At the recent State Library Commission meeting in Miles City, interlibrary loan charges were discussed at length. Paul Dunham, director of research and services for the Commissioner of Higher Education reported the major university libraries last year made more than 16,000 loans to other libraries. He estimated the cost of staff time for ILL for the University System was $103,000. MSU librarian and Commission member, Noreen Aldredge reported a recent study indicated MSU is providing $25,000 in ILL services above what the Montana State Library provides in compensation for those services. Ellen Newberg, reading a letter from the Montana Library Association, reported MLA's concern of the creation of an information poor througnout Montana if fees are charged for ILL.

A decision on ILL fees ILL is expected at the Board of Regent's meeting held prior to the State Library Commission's October meeting in Havre. For further information on ILL fees, contact the Library Development Unit of the Montana State Library.

A Letter From the Executive Board of the Montana Library Association

The Montana Library Association recognizes the difficult financial status of state government-funded libraries. We remind you that the intent of using Montana tax revenues to build college and university collections was for the state taxpayers to have use of those collections. We are fearful that in limiting access to those collections by making fees the standard for reimbursement for all interlibrary loan activities we will see the creation of an information elite at the college campuses and an information poor throughout the rest of Montana. Rather than increasing and extending fees, we strongly urge the Board of Regents and the Montana State Library Commission work together to identify supplementary funding sources appropriate for Montana's libraries which will support and enhance interlibrary loan activities.

MULTITYPE/ MULTIJURISDICTIONAL LIBRARY CARD

The Multitype/Multijurisdictional Library Card Project centered at the Miles City Public Library is proving to be a strong success. Eighteen libraries in thirteen eastern Montana counties are issuing library cards to their users that may be used in a variety of public, school and community college libraries. Residents of Ekalaka, for example, who find themselves in Miles City to shop or do other business, can now stop by the public library to check out a wide variety of titles that normally wouldn't be available to them other than through interlibrary loan. Miles City Librarian, Georgia Lomax, reports there has been no book loss from the project and feedback from librarians and library users has been positive. The Multitype/ Multijurisdictional Library Project runs through October and may be the forerunner of what could be, in the future, a statewide library card.

CORE COLLECTION GRANT

Now in progress in central Montana is a $25,000 LSCA Core Collection Grant Project for Rural Libraries. The project, coordinated by Mary Bushing of the Parmly Billings Library, seeks to provide a method by which small rural libraries may most efficiently develop their collections for their users. (Participat-

1,150 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of 22¢ per copy, for a total cost of $250.00, which includes $250.00 for printing and $.00 for distribution.

ing in the project are: Lavina, Custer and Ryegate High School libraries, Bighorn College Library, Judith Basin County Free Library, Stillwater County Library, Bridger Public Library and Sunnyside Library in Worden).

Bushing reports that small rural libraries often have very basic problems when it comes to collection development. "High School libraries are sometimes the only public library in a community. However, when the librarian has to teach five classes a day, coordinate after-school activities and run the library, very little time is available for collection development. Public libraries are sometimes run by volunteers or by librarians who work in a building open only 15 hours a week - this also leaves them with little time for collection development."

The eight librarians involved in the Core Collection project have, with the help of Bushing, weeded their collections, analyzed their circulation by subject, and compiled surveys and community profiles to help them develop the core collection that would be the most beneficial to their users.

When the project is completed in February 1987, each library will have a core of materials that should better reflect their user's needs and they will, as Bushing says, "have the practical knowledge to continue the ongoing process of collection development." Mary Bushing believes the project can be used as a model that could be followed by other rural libraries throughout the state. She sees her position as consultant crucial to rural librarians who often need an outside source person with whom to discuss the practical side of librarianship.

The staff of the Great Falls Public Library, in the process of "weeding" their collection as they prepare to input their holdings onto WLN, pose for a photo at the library.

UPDATE ON MONTANA KELLOGG GRANT

Nansu Roddy of Hamilton has been named the communications coordinator of the Hamilton, Montana Kellogg Grant project. Ms. Roddy has been a resident of the Hamilton area for several years and has an extensive background in adult education. The project, which is designed to improve the delivery of educational and informational services to rural residents around Hamilton and Libby, Montana, is now in its beginning stages. Hamilton and Libby coordinators are preparing needs assessments for their communities and working closely with staff at Montana State University. The State Library expects to have hired a facilitator for Montana's portion of the 4-year project in early autumn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Montana State University is hosting a number of online workshops in Bozeman this fall. They are as follows:

September 15, 1986 - Scisearch/Social Scisearch on DIALOG; September 15, 1986 - Arts Humanities Search on BRS; October 20, 1986 - INSPEC Training Seminar; November 14, 1986 -BIOSIS Training Seminar. For further information, contact Tom Bremer, Coordinator Online Services, Montana State University Libraries (406) 994-3171.

The fall conference of the Five Valleys Reading Council will be held in Missoula on September 27th. Featured speakers are Gregory Denman, a story-teller from Colorado Springs and Dr. Twila Ligtett, project director of the educational television series "Reading Rainbow."

Jean Robson, Interlibrary Loan Librarian at Parmly Billings library has devised a simple method to insure a person's confidentiality on the new WLN ILL subsystem. By using the numbers on the user's library card, Robson keeps private the record of what a person has requested.

A $10,000 LSCA Grant for a Pilot Literacy Project will soon be awarded to a public library in the state of Montana. The project will be designed to enable a library to obtain a core collection of resource materials on literacy and to develop programs in the community to work with literacy problems. Very important to the literacy project is increasing public awareness of problems that do exist in Montana. Seven public libraries from around the state have shown a strong interest in the project.

The Montana Faxnet project expects an autumn arrival of telefacsimile machines that will link libraries in the Helena area. Linda Brander, Faxnet coordinator, reports that the Legislative Council, the Montana State Library, the Montana State Law Library, the Lewis and Clark Library, and the Carroll College library will soon be linked by telefacsimile capability.

A significant LSCA Grant for FY 1987 involves $78,000 for CD-ROM Technology. With this grant over a dozen Montana libraries would receive the Western Library Network database on new technology (laser discs used with a reader and a microcomputer). For two current articles that reflect the current status of CD-ROM technology try: Karl Beiser's **"Microcomputing: State of the CD-ROM Art"** in the Wilson Library Bulletin, April 1986, pp. 42-43, or Joan Frye Williams' **"Bittersweet ROM-ance"** in the library computing supplement to Library Journal, May 1, 1986, pp. LC25-27.

The Northwest Information Directory, a Guide to Unusual Sources and Special Collections, a 248-page directory containing over 2,000 information sources in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington is now available from the Information Technology Institute, 1135 S.E. Salmon, Portland, OR 97214.

The Montana Library Association WLN Interest Group is sponsoring a meeting in Helena on October 2, 1986. A workshop on the micro uses of the IBM PC will be presented by a WLN staff member. There will also be a business meeting.

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